

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the first two paragraphs of page 1 of the specification, together with their subheadings, with the amended subheading and paragraph indicated below:

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED PROVISIONAL APPLICATION**

~~This application claims the benefit of commonly assigned, pending U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/219,724, filed July 19, 2000, entitled "Augmenting Existing Data Puncturing Pattern for Frame Matching", hereby incorporated by reference herein.~~

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application claims the benefit under 35 USC § 119 of commonly assigned, copending U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/219,724, filed July 19, 2000, entitled "Augmenting Existing Data Puncturing Pattern for Frame Matching", and~~This application~~ is related to commonly assigned U.S. Application No.: 09/687,700 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,891,853), filed 10/12/00, entitled "Frame Matching Method", and commonly assigned U.S. Application No.: 09/686,786, filed 10/11/00, entitled "Frame Matching Method", and all three of these documents are both hereby incorporated by reference herein in their entireties for their teachings on frame-based communication systems, frame processing techniques and rate matching circuits.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2 with the following amended paragraph:

Wireless communication systems facilitate two-way communication between a plurality of subscriber mobile radio stations or "mobile stations" and a fixed network infrastructure. Typically, the plurality of mobile stations communicates ~~communicate~~ with the fixed network infrastructure via a plurality of fixed base stations. Exemplary systems include such mobile cellular telephone systems as Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) systems, Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) systems, and Frequency Division Multiple Access (FDMA) systems. The objective of these digital communication systems is to provide communication channels on demand between the mobile stations and the base stations in order to facilitate communication between the mobile station users, and also to allow connectively with a fixed network infrastructure (e.g., a wired "POTS" telecommunications system). An exemplary digital communication system is shown in ~~FIGURE 1~~ FIGURE 2 and described in detail as Figure 1 in the above-incorporated U.S. Application No.: 09/687,700 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,891,853).

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 15 with the following amended paragraph:

FIGURE 4 shows a simplified block diagram of a second embodiment of the rate matching circuit of the present invention. As shown in FIGURE 4, the second embodiment 72 comprises a multiplexer 42, a flexible symbol repetition device 44 and a standard puncturing pattern device 49. The multiplexer 42 is capable of receiving symbols from an encoder (not shown) and receiving control data from a microprocessor 50. Depending upon the control data received from the microprocessor 50, the multiplexer 42 outputs symbols to either the flexible symbol repetition device 44 or the standard puncturing pattern device 49. In accordance with well-known rate matching techniques, the multiplexer 42 outputs symbols to the flexible symbol repetition device 44 when the symbol code rate produces too few symbols to complete a frame. When the symbol code rate produces too many symbols to fit into a frame, the multiplexer 42 outputs symbols to the standard puncturing pattern device 49. Symbol repetition techniques are well known in the communication art and thus are not described in more detail herein. One exemplary repetition technique is described in the incorporated U.S. Application No.: 09/687,700 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,891,853).